

REMARKS

On July 29, 2003, applicant filed an amendment under 37 CFR §1.116 with an executed Certificate of Mailing dated July 29, 2003. In responding to the amendment under 37 CFR §1.116, the Examiner indicated that the amendment was non-compliant with 37 CFR §1.121(a)-(c) because the cancelled claims are not listed. Applicant notes, however, that an amendment filed under the previous version of 37 CFR §1.121 with a Certificate of Mailing dated before July 30, 2003 is in compliance with 37 CFR §1.121. (See item D of the attached copy of Revised Amendment Practice, Questions and Answers (FAQs), page 3.)

Thus, from what applicant can determine, the paper filed on July 29, 2003 is in compliance with 37 CFR §1.121. As a result, applicant requests that the amendment filed on July 29, 2003 be entered and, since the error is on the part of the PTO, that the three-month deadline (for the purpose of determining any extension of time fees) be set as the mailing date of the Examiner's response to the present paper (the three month deadline from the final rejection expires today, August 29, 2003).

In addition, applicant wishes to make U.S. Patent No. 6,507,112 to Kurihara, U.S. Patent No. 6,358,831 to Liu, and U.S. Patent No. 6,114,231 to Chen (copies of which are hereby attached) of record in the present application. The above three patents are not being cited in an Information Disclosure Statement as relevant art, but are cited as evidence of the physical structure and definition of a pad.

As noted in the response mailed July 29, 2003, the term in a patent claim is defined by the plain meaning of the term unless the applicant has otherwise provided a clear definition of the term in the specification. In the present case, the plain meaning of the term "pad" is well known in the art of semiconductor fabrication, and is a metal region. For example, Kurihara shows a pad 2 in FIG. 1 which is a metal region. Liu shows a pad 24 in FIGs. 1 and 2B which is a metal region. In addition, opening 91 shown in FIG. 1G of Chen exposes a metal region that serves as a pad. From what applicant can determine, there is nothing in the

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claims, applicant's specification, or applicant's FIG. 16 that changes the plain meaning of the term "pad."

Thus, since applicant's specification and claims do not define the term "pad" to mean a metal region that only carries varying voltages, the Examiner must use the plain meaning of the term "pad" (as understood by one skilled in the art). Using the plain meaning of the term "pad," the horizontal lines shown in FIG. 3 of Gens can not be read to be the positive lines of the claims because these lines are connected to pads, the VCC1 and VCC2 pads.

As a result, claims 15, 19, 38-39, 45-57, 60-62, 65-66, and 69-72 are patentable over Gens, and Gens in view of the Admitted Prior Art (APA). In addition, claims 45, 58, and 63 are believed to be patentable for the further reasons set forth in the prior amendment, which are hereby repeated by incorporation.

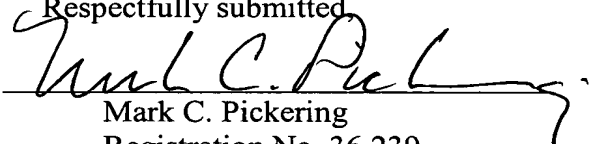
Thus, for the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that all of the claims are in a condition for allowance. Therefore, the Examiner's early re-examination and reconsideration are respectively requested.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

8-29-03

By: \_\_\_\_\_

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